

23. (New) The switchable polarizer of claim 20 further comprising:  
a set of amplifiers that supply current to said set of electrodes.

24. (New) A method of operating a liquid crystal polarizer, comprising:  
driving a set of electrodes to cause current to flow through said set of electrodes to  
sufficiently heat a liquid crystal layer of said liquid crystal polarizer to control a temperature  
of said liquid crystal layer; and  
driving said set of electrodes to establish an electric field across said layer of liquid  
crystal to control polarization states of said liquid crystal.

25. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein said driving said set of electrodes to  
cause current to flow and said driving said set of electrodes to establish an electric field occur  
simultaneously.

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26. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein said driving said set of electrodes to  
cause current to flow and said driving said set of electrodes to establish an electric field occur  
in different operational modes.

27. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein said driving said set of electrodes to  
cause current to flow includes:  
engaging a plurality of switches coupled to said set of electrodes.

28. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein said driving said set of electrodes to  
cause current to flow applies symmetric bipolar signals to drive said first set of electrodes to a  
positive potential and to drive said second set of electrodes to a negative potential.